

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION

Thursday, October 24. 1706.

I Have done with my Negatives, who shall not be Gainers by the Treaty of Union with *Scotland*; I might have run it on to some farther Particulars, as that our *High-Flyers* in *England*, our *Tackers*, our pressing Justices, and railing Clergy will be no Gainers by it; because Union will really put an effectual Check to all these Malecontents, and their impotent Fury will dye of it self. *B—*: may now cease his voluminous Polemicks, and cease to abridge old Cases to confute the fancied Errors of others; Union in Establishments will sink at once, all the Hopes He and his *High-Flying* Brethren had conceiv'd of crusting an Interest, which being fix'd both upon Truth and the Law, challenges now a Liberty both from the Authority of God and Man.

All these Gentlemen, who fed themselves with the Hopes of Confusions in the *North* upon the *Scots* refusing our Succession, may go to work some other way to break in upon the publick Peace; for they will find a Calm of Nature too serene, and too lasting to be interrupted by their Contrivances, follow this Union to the entire Disappointment of all their Expectations.

All our Gentlemen, who have taken a Fright at the very Words, *Peace* and *Union*, and who upon the mention of it in *England* fall into *Fits of the Fasher*, crying out, *Presbyterians*, *Rebels*, and *Forty one*, and all our Memorialists and Malecontents at the present Ministry; who love the last, because they had Success in nothing; and hate the present, because they have Success in every thing; all these might be brought

brought in as Chagrin and Discontent at the Union, for it really is not for their Turn, does not suit their Business.

Our inferiour Clergy, I mean such of them as have lately made themselves notorious by their State-Follies, ill Manners, or ill Morals, have no Interest to hope for from this Union, nor is it any wonder to me to find them universally railing against it — Not that they can with the least Colour of Reason suggest any Danger to their Church from it, as they really apprehend, being kept within the Bounds of Reason, and being deprived of the Liberty of Tyranny and Persecution, the two grand Supports of *High Church* Politicks; These Gentlemen will expect no Advantage.

The Union is an entire Suppressing the Power, and I hope the Spirit and Desire of Persecution on every side. 'Tis Security to each Establishment in the Church with Toleration to the *Dissenters*; on either hand 'tis a Coalition and compleat Communication of Interests, Trade, Privileges, and every thing for mutual Advantages of either Kingdoms, that can in Reason be desir'd.

It is uniting the two Kingdoms into one, settling the Crowns upon one and the same Line or Family, to be govern'd by the same Sovereign represented in one and the same Parliament, with full Freedom and Inter-course of Trade and Navigation; either Nation are to be liable to the same Taxes, Customs and Excises by a proportion'd Equality, with reasonable Reserves, Exceptions or Equivalents, to regulate the said Equality to Trade, under the same Prohibitions, Restrictions, and Regulations, and enjoy the same Encouragements.

By this Union I have advanc'd, that either Nation will reap their respective Advantages, and profess'd my self unable to determine, which are the greatest.

Scotland will increase in Wealth, *England* in Strength, both in Tranquility; and I must confess, I cannot think the often Repetition of these things offensive to any but those, who for Ends they best know, are ever clamorous, and my Reply to them is — Let them rail, 'till their good Law.

I am told, the *Review* is quoted by

Mr. *Observer*, in which 'tis alledg'd, I said Troops of Horse were to keep the Peace at Elections, I appeal to all the World, and only refer them to the Quotation it self — And if it be there to be found, I have done.

The Words are plain, there had been a set Battle in the Streets of *Coventry*, about 3 or 400 on a side in a Tumult, with Clubs, Staves, &c. Abundance of People wounded and knockt down — And upon this I said in the *Review*, after a little Wonder at their Proceedings, as follows. Her Majesty, as she has never yet made Use of her Military Authority to deal with any of her own Subjects, will no doubt be very unwilling to begin with the City of *Coventry*; but if nothing but Troops of Horse will keep you quiet, you must thank your selves, the Peace must be maintain'd.

What is here, Gentlemen, of keeping the Peace at Elections. This Rior was long before the Election, and the Paper wrote on the Account of the Rior, not the Election; and in a subsequent Paper to this, I explain'd my self, that my Meaning was: thus.

That when ever Riot, Tumult, or Rebellion became too strong for the Civil Authority, and suppress'd the Magistrates; the Military Power in Subservience to the Civil may be call'd in to keep the Peace.

And 'tis this which was voted good Law by Men who understand good Law. Mr. *Tutchin* says, 'twas the other Paper, and is very abusive; but Railing and Lying will always go together.

I appeal to the Fact, I have nothing to say to the Person, he is welcome to go on in abusing ore who gives him no Provocation, and industriously studies to avoid disagreeing with him.

I am now upon the Union, and I am inform'd, he is very petulant upon that Head; I shall not take my Measures from his Observations, and desire that he would not take it ill that I say nothing to him, since he will not treat me in a manner fit to be decently reply'd to.

He asks me, what the Union is? I am not honour'd with being a Treator in it; 'tis enough both Nations know what it is, and if he is the only Person ignorant, I am for-

ry for it ; if he is against it, let him be so, my Business is not to him, let him complain of the Government for barring him telling his Mind, 'tis not my Fault, I speak for it ; because I am convinc'd in Judgment, that it is for the general Good, not barely because the Government are for it, for I scorn to speak a Word against my Judgment to serve or oblige any Government in the World ; if it is not Mr. *Observer's* Opinion, that the Union is for the general Good, he does not use to be so cowardly as to be afraid to speak his Mind ; I assure him, I should venture to do it.

Her Majesty has not barr'd him the Room of fair arguing one way or other, and the World swarms with Pamphlets against it, even to Scurrility, notwithstanding the QUEEN's Order, Truth will always protect an Author from the Resentment of Power, or support them under that Resentment——Good Reasons against the Union will be always heard, and if he has any thing to say to it, he may be heard ; 'tis scandalous on a Government to say, one writes safe, and the other in danger : I am neither hired, employ'd nor sent to any thing or Place, nor will ever be employ'd by any Power or Person against my Judgment ; he that suggests it, and cannot prove it, is not an honest Man, but does an Injury he cannot justify either to Conscience or Honesty.

The Union is a publick Good to both Nations, and all honest Men, that I converse with, rejoice in the Hopes of it——As a Trophy erected on the Grave of Tyranny, and a solemn Resurrection of Liberty both Ecclesiastical and Civil ; as a Period put to all Kinds of Cruelty, Breach of Charity, Oppression, and Strife of Parties.

'Tis a shaking Hands between two Protestant Churches, establishing one another by the Sanction of Laws, and capitulating with one another for an entire Peace ; 'tis a setting up Land-marks and Bounds between each other, and a stating the Limits or Frontiers of their Privileges ; 'tis an entire Cessation of Church Hostilities, and removing the Foundations of Confusion and Contention from among us.

As here are in the separate Jurisdiction of either Church, some of differing Opini-

ons, differing Aims, and differing Expectations ; this puts Periods to those Expectations on one hand, and the Fears and Suspicions on the other ; securing the firm Establishment of the one, and yet leaving Room with all possible Tenderness and easiness for the other.

'Tis in short establishing the Constitution and Church-Government on both sides ; one according to the Church of *England*, the other according to the *Presbyterian* Church in *Scotland* ; both upon the firm Rock and proper Foundation of the Laws, and linking those Laws with the very Constitution of the whole Island ; that the Jealousies and Fears on both sides may dye of course, and mutual Charity, Love, and Christian Behaviour may be settled and encourag'd on both sides.

This is the Union in general, especially as it respects the Church in both Nations ; and if there are any solid Objections can be rais'd against such a Work as this, I confess, they are such as are hid from me, and as I shall be glad to hear from any body that can speak calmly and reasonably.

That I have again and again push'd at this thing, and often repeated the Words, as well as the Discourse about *Peace* and *Union*, is true ; and I think, I cannot do it too often, while there is any Room left to say any thing to the Purpose upon those Heads——They are Subjects never to be worn Thread-bare, while our unpeaceable Spirits and disunited Tempers raise new and daily Animosities.

But what if I have said too much about it in one Man's Opinion, cannot that Person rather chuse to say something more to the Purpose himself, instead of finding Fault?——If I make Tautologies, and talk to no Purpose, he has the same Liberty unobserv'd by me ; perhaps in some other body's Opinion as good as his, I may yet be thought to speak to the Purpose.

The Union is a thing, I am convinc'd in my Judgment, is the only remaining Step, that, Providence and Miracles excepted, remains to be taken to complete the Happiness and Prosperity of this Nation, and indeed of both the Nations. Since a great many Men have their Eyes shut to this Blessing,

sing, and great Need of all possible Endeavours to inform them. this in my weak Talent I am upon, and I shall pursue this without any Regard to an envious and calumniating Party; who never cease opposing even the Happiness they wish for, if not handed to them in the Manner they approve of.

If I am mistaken in my Hopes, and this Union shall miscarry, I shall be very sorry, I shall take it as a Judgment to both the Kingdoms, and as a Signal, that the Divine Displeasure is not yet appeas'd; but I shall never repent my having thrown this Mite to the Building, and done my Part to show the World their real Advantages by it, and put them in Mind of the Junction, in which they had occasion to see the things that belong to their Peace.

I shall never repent, because I am satisfied and settled in this, that my Design is sincere, and I think, my Judgment not ill inform'd, as to the general Good that will accrue to every Party, as well one as another, in a lasting, firm, indissoluble Union between two such Nations, who have so long, so often, and so fatally been at Variance among themselves.

I come now to show, who shall be Gainers by this Union, and as this is a large Field, and may be entred upon divers Ways, I must be allow'd my own Method; in which I shall very little regard the Interruptions of any body, much less of those whose End of Quarrelling I know to be personal, and altogether unconcern'd for the Good of their Country.

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